

Women's Services. In July 1950 approval was given for the enlistment of women into the Australian Regular Army on a limited scale. Enlistment commenced into the Royal Australian Army Nursing Service in November 1950 and into the Australian Women's Army Corps early in 1951. In February 1951 the Royal Australian Army Nursing Service became a Corps and was designated the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (R.A.A.N.C.). During June 1951 the Australian Women's Army Corps was redesignated the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (W.R.A.A.C.). The Women's Services in the Australian Regular Army now comprise two Corps only, the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps and the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps.

Women's Services are incorporated in the Citizen Military Forces, and one company of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps is located in each Command excluding Northern Territory Command and Papua New Guinea. Companies of the Royal Australian Nursing Corps are also located in each Command excluding Northern Territory Command and Papua New Guinea.

Australian Cadet Corps. The Australian Cadet Corps is a voluntary organisation. It serves as a training ground to provide, to some extent, the future officers and non-commissioned officers of the Australian Military Forces, and, as such, occupies a foremost position in the scheme of national defence. The Australian Cadet Corps, does not, however, form part of the Australian Military Forces. School Cadet units are raised at educational establishments throughout the Commonwealth and Papua New Guinea, except in the Northern Territory. The minimum age for enrolment is the year in which the applicant reaches the age of fourteen years, and cadets, who, in the large majority of schools receive a free issue of A.M.F. pattern uniform, may remain in the Cadet Corps until they cease to be pupils of the educational establishments concerned. A few units retain their own pattern school uniform and are not issued with A.M.F. pattern uniforms. Provision is made for the appointment of officers of cadets, cadet under-officers, warrant and non-commissioned officers on an authorised establishment scale from within school units. School Cadet units may be, and in many cases are, affiliated with Citizen Military Force units. The establishment of the Corps is 46,000 all ranks, and at 15 October 1971 comprised 337 School Cadet units with a posted strength of 38,986 all ranks.

Air Defence

There are two elements in air defence: static air defence and counter air operations by strike aircraft.

Static air defence is provided by manned interceptor fighter aircraft, at times augmented by surface-to-air missile systems and gun defences, all operating under the direction of a control organisation. Such static systems are limited in their defensive coverage by the radius of action of the fighter-aircraft and/or the effective operating range of the controlling radar.

Complementary to the static air defence system and capable of much wider ranging activities are the counter air strike forces. The aim of these forces is to destroy the enemy's offensive air capabilities at their source.

Higher organisation

The Air Board is responsible to the Minister for Air for the control, organisation, and administration of the Royal Australian Air Force and is constituted as follows: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Member for Personnel, Air Member for Supply and Equipment, Air Member for Technical Services, and the Secretary, Department of Air.

The Air Board administers and controls R.A.A.F. units in Australia and its Territories through two commands, Operational Command and Support Command. The guiding principles of the command organisation within Australia are to decentralise day-to-day operating activities as far as possible and to streamline the force and make it as efficient as possible. Operational units overseas, working within the broad directives issued by the Air Board, comprise the R.A.A.F. components of the ANZUK Force located at Butterworth in Malaysia and in the Republic of Singapore. The R.A.A.F. component of the Australian Forces in South Vietnam was in the final process of being withdrawn during 1972.

The members of the Air Board and their staffs are located at the Department of Air in Canberra. An R.A.A.F. representative is located in London, there is an R.A.A.F. mission in Italy, and air attachés are located in Djakarta, Saigon, Paris, and Washington. *Operational Command* is responsible for the command of operational units and the conduct of their operations within Australia and its territories. *Support Command* is responsible for the recruitment and training of personnel, and the supply and maintenance of service equipment.

Jubilee Year

As this year marks the commencement of a new era in the history of the Royal Australian Air Force, following the completion of its Jubilee Year in 1971, some additional information has been compiled to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the R.A.A.F. During 1971 there were seven air displays in five States and the Australian Capital Territory. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, as Marshal of the R.A.A.F., participated in the main celebrations. A special souvenir book *The Golden Years* was published and a commemorative postage stamp issued.

Development of the Royal Australian Air Force

Although junior in years to the Army and Navy the R.A.A.F. has achieved a commendable record in a comparatively short period.

The development of the R.A.A.F. has been in three separate phases, starting with the creation and slow growth in Australia of an Air Force as a distinct entity in the 1920's and 1930's. In 1925 the first reference to Air Defence appeared in Year Book No. 18, page 610 and summarised developments from 1911 to that time.

In 1929 with the abolition of the Air Council and the constitution of the Defence Committee, the regulations relating to the Air Board were amended to delete all reference to the Air Council. The Air Board in its control and administration of the Air Force functioned under the Department of Defence and was responsible to the Minister for Defence. The Headquarters of the Air Board came to be known as the Royal Australian Air Force Headquarters or more generally as Air Force Headquarters. A civilian element was established within the Headquarters and its officers were members of the Defence Department. This continued until 13 November 1939, when three additional Departments were established separately from the Department of Defence, namely the Departments of Navy, Army and Air.

A reference to the constitution and expansion of the Air Board is contained in Year Book No. 36, page 1027. (In 1954 the Secretary of the Department of Air was appointed a member of the Air Board in place of the Finance Member.)

The second phase saw the great expansion of the Air Force during the 1939-45 War, rising from a total of some 3,000 personnel to over 180,000 including approximately 18,000 in the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force. On 1 September 1945 there were 489 individual R.A.A.F. units compared with the original twenty-two at the outbreak of war. Full details of the expansion and development of and type of operations of the R.A.A.F. in the 1939-45 War may be found in Year Book No. 36, page 1027.

By the end of the 1939-45 War air power had grown into a recognisable third dimension in modern warfare and events since then have continued to demonstrate the value of the distinctive role of air power in any armed conflict.

The final phase required the restructuring and development of the Air Force from the immediate post war period and in 1953 three R.A.A.F. Field Commands were formed to control and administer the first phase of the change over from the old Area structure to a new functional command organisation. Concurrently with the introduction of the new command structure the title of the central controlling authority for the Air Force was changed to that of Department of Air.

In 1959 the number of commands was reduced from three to two, one dealing with operations and the other providing all support required.

In 1960 the Department of Air transferred from Melbourne to Canberra.

Operations since the 1939-45 War

The post World War II era saw a continuation of actual military operations by the R.A.A.F. in Korea, Malaya and South Vietnam.

Operations in Korea and Malaya. Reference to R.A.A.F. participation in operations in Korea is contained in Year Book No. 40, pages 1112-13. Australian assistance in the form of one transport squadron provided to the Malayan authorities is detailed in Year Book No. 40, page 1113. A reference to operations by No. 1 (Bomber) Squadron in Malaya is contained in Year Book No. 45, page 1066.

Operations in South Vietnam. No. 2 Canberra Bomber Squadron operated in South Vietnam from April 1967 to June 1971 and flew over 13,000 sorties. No. 9 Helicopter Squadron operated in South Vietnam from June 1966 to December 1971 and flew over 237,000 sorties in support of the 1st Australian Task Force. It carried over 414,000 passengers, 4,000 medical evacuations and nearly 27 million pounds of freight. R.A.A.F. Transport Flight Vietnam and later No. 35 Caribou Squadron operated in South Vietnam from August 1964 to February 1972 and had flown over 81,000 sorties and its loadings included over 677,000 passengers, 106 medical evacuations, over 91 million pounds of freight and over 12 million pounds of mail.

R.A.A.F. awards and decorations since 1939-45 War

The numbers of the various awards and decorations conferred on members of the R.A.A.F. for gallantry or meritorious service in Korea, Malaya and South Vietnam appear below.

	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Malaya</i>	<i>Vietnam(a)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Companion Order of Bath (C.B.)	.	..	3	.. 3
Commander, Order of British Empire (C.B.E.)	.	..	8	8
Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.)	3	..	9	12
Officer Order of British Empire (O.B.E.)	3	1	2	6
Member Order of British Empire (M.B.E.)	11	5	16	32
Distinguished Flying Cross (D.F.C.)	(b)45	9	(c)61	(b)(c)115
Distinguished Flying Cross, Bar	6	4	3	13
Air Force Cross (A.F.C.)	13	2	..	15
Air Force Cross, Bar	1	..	..	1
Royal Red Cross (Associate)	1	..	..	1
Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (C.G.M.)	..	..	1	1
George Medal (G.M.)	..	..	1	1
Military Medal (M.M.)	..	..	1	1
Distinguished Flying Medal (D.F.M.)	18	1	10	29
British Empire Medal (B.E.M.)	2	7	5	14
British Empire Medal (B.E.M.) for gallantry	..	..	1	1
Mention in Dispatches	(d)156	35	(e)129	(d)(e)320
Mention in Dispatches (Second)	1	..	..	1
King's or Queen's Commendation	15	1	..	16
Foreign Awards (United States of America)	(f)140	..	..	(f)140
Commander-in-Chief Cards	..	3	..	3

(a) Summary of awards granted in Vietnam is correct at 28 January 1972. (b) Includes 4 awards to RAF personnel.
 (c) Includes 4 awards to RNZAF and 1 to RAN personnel. (d) Includes 7 awards to RAF personnel. (e) Includes 2 awards to RNZAF personnel. (f) Includes 4 awards to RAF personnel.

Organisation of units

Bases. Each command is established with the units necessary to carry out its allotted function. There is no fixed rule in relation to the number and types of units within each command, as this depends upon the nature of its present and future responsibilities. Where possible, units having similar functions or requiring similar facilities are located together, and the geographical locations are known as bases.

Formations—comprising a headquarters unit to control the activities of a number of units at one location; each formation has a base squadron which provides common services to all units at the location.

Flying squadrons—strike reconnaissance, air defence, ground attack, medium and short range transport, helicopter, and maritime reconnaissance squadrons which undertake the operational flying and in conjunction with operational conversion units, the operational flying training commitments of the R.A.A.F.

Operational conversion units—specialising in operational conversion training of aircrew for the strike reconnaissance, air defence, and ground attack squadrons.

Aircraft depots—specialising in major overhaul, etc., of aircraft and equipment.

Stores depots—centrally located depots to which stores and equipment ordered by the R.A.A.F. are delivered for distribution to units.

Airfield construction squadron—specialising in airfield construction tasks in support of the R.A.A.F. operational component within Australia and the Territories.

Telecommunications units—responsible for the communications services of the R.A.A.F.

R.A.A.F. Hospitals—hospitals in Australia and at Butterworth providing medical services for the R.A.A.F.

Flying and ground schools and units—schools and units specialising in the aircrew and ground staff training required by the R.A.A.F.

R.A.A.F. Diploma Squadron and R.A.A.F. Academy—training units, to diploma and university degree level respectively for officer cadet entrants to the R.A.A.F.

R.A.A.F. Staff College—trains specially selected R.A.A.F. officers for higher staff and command posts.

Aircraft

The R.A.A.F.'s strike reconnaissance force is equipped with Canberra and Phantom F4-E aircraft, and the air defence and ground attack squadrons are equipped with the Mirage 111-O. Transport aircraft currently in use are Hercules C130A and E, Caribou, Dakota, Mystere 20, HS748, and BAC111. The two helicopter squadrons operate the Iroquois and the two maritime squadrons operate Neptune SP2H and Orion P3-B aircraft. Aircraft used for training are the Winjeel, Macchi, HS748, and Mirage 111-O.

Personnel, reserve, woman's services

At 30 December 1971, the authorised Permanent Air Force establishment was 24,963 and the Citizen Air Force, 1,080; the enlisted strength was Permanent Air Force 22,378 and Citizen Air Force 763, while the strength of the General Reserve was 5,774. The Permanent Air Force figures include the Women's Royal Australian Air Force, which has an establishment of 1,022 and strength of 857, and the R.A.A.F. Nursing Service with an establishment of 122 and strength of 101.

Department of Supply

For information relating to the creation of the Department of Supply and its development up to 1959 see Year book No. 51, page 1204, and earlier issues. On 18 December 1959 the Department assumed responsibility for the operation and management of space tracking stations in Australia on behalf of the United States of America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). On 29 March 1962 Australia became a foundation member of the European Launcher Development Organisation, and the Department accepted responsibility for the test firing of the launching rocket for that Organisation's experimental satellite, using the facilities of the Woomera Rocket Range. The last of these ten test firings at Woomera was on 12 June 1970.

On 1 May 1968 the Department took over the Administration of the Antarctic Division from the Department of External Affairs.

Functions of Department

The functions of the Department of Supply include the following.

- Defence research and development, including the operation of the Joint United Kingdom-Australia Weapons Research Project, and Australian research and development.
- Planning, establishment, operation and management of facilities producing aircraft, guided missiles, small arms, ammunition, explosives, marine engines, clothing, telecommunications equipment, and other defence goods.
- Printing for the Defence group of departments.
- Arrangement of contracts for purchasing in Australia of supplies and services required by the Armed Forces and certain other Government organisations.
- Acquisition, maintenance, and disposal of strategic materials.
- Investigation and development of Australian sources of supply in connection with defence.
- Disposal of surplus or obsolescent Commonwealth goods on behalf of all departments.
- Provision of Commonwealth transport facilities outside the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.
- Provision and control of stores required for or in connection with matters administered by the Department of Supply, and general storage for other departments as required.
- Arrangements for ascertaining costs and the control and limitation of profits in connection with the production of munitions and other defence goods.
- Operation and management of space tracking stations and certain other facilities on behalf of the Government of the United States of America.
- Organisation of expeditions and establishment and maintenance of stations in the Antarctic for the purposes of exploration and conducting scientific studies.

The Minister for Supply administers the *Supply and Development Act* 1939-1966, except in so far as it concerns the building (see also Chapter 12, Transport and Communication), repair, and maintenance of merchant ships and the building, extension, alteration, repair, and maintenance of shipyards, drydocking, and repair facilities for merchant ships.

The Minister for Supply also administers the *Antarctic Treaty Act* 1960, the *Australian Antarctic Territory Acceptance Act* 1933, the *Australian Antarctic Territory Act* 1954-1963, and the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Act* 1953-1963.

For the performance of the above functions the Department is organised into five Divisions, namely:

Research and Development; Munitions Supply; Aircraft, Guided Weapons and Electronics Supply; Planning and Procurement; and Finance and Management Services.